

# Electronic Supplementary Material

## A Novel High-sensitive Dual-channel Chemical Sensor for Sequential Recognition of $\text{Cu}^{2+}/\text{CN}^-$ in Aqueous Media and its Bioimaging Applications on Living Cells

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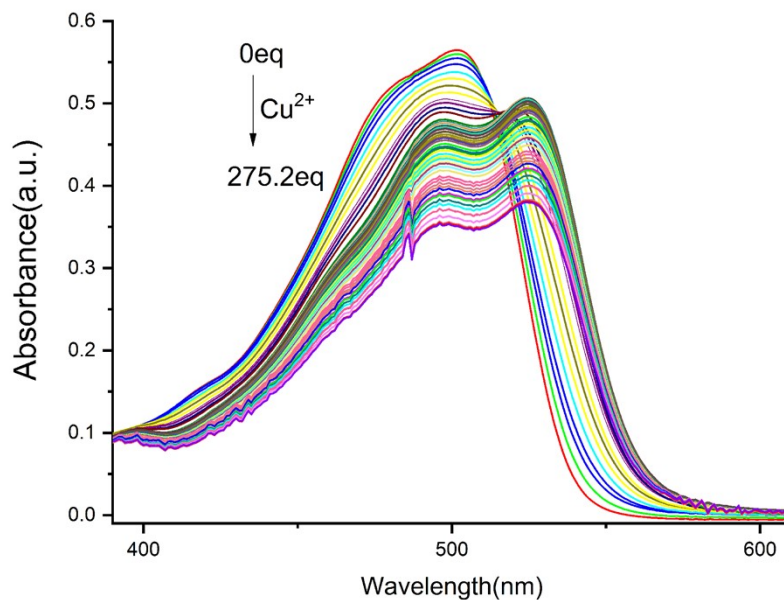
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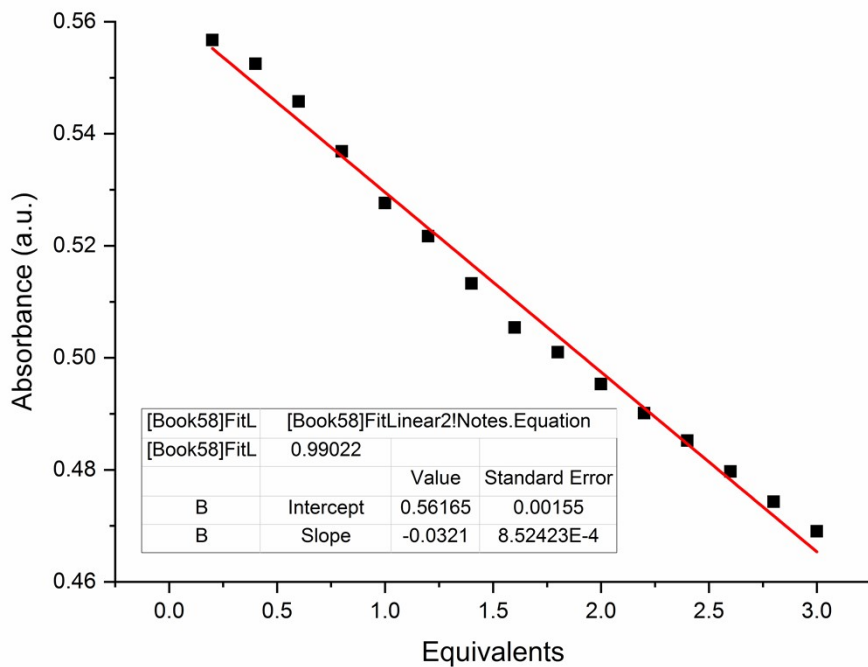
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1. Absorbance spectra of **DH** with increasing concentrations of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$



**Fig. S1** Absorbance spectra of **DH** ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M) with increasing concentrations of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , in DMSO/H<sub>2</sub>O (9 : 1, v/v) solutions at room temperature.

## 2. The UV-vis detection limit of Cu<sup>2+</sup> determined by DH



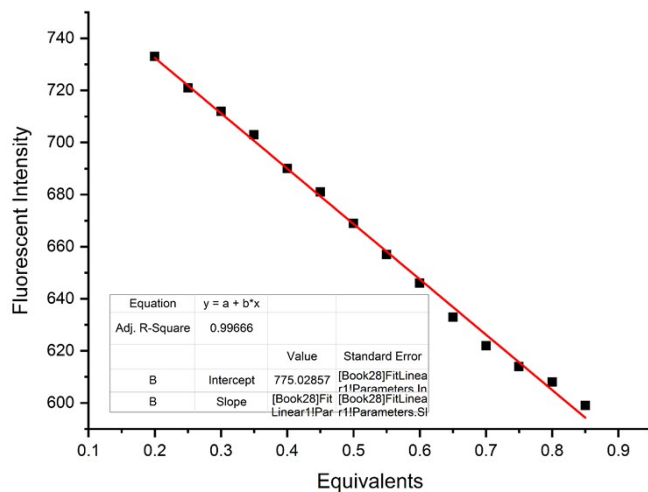
Linear Equation:  $Y = -0.0321 \times X + 0.56165$        $R = 0.9902$

$$S = 3.21 \times 10^4 \quad \delta = \sqrt{\frac{\sum(A - \bar{A})^2}{(N - 1)}} = 2.884 \times 10^{-2} \quad (N = 15) \quad K = 3$$

$$\text{LOD} = K \times \delta / S = 2.7105 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$$

**Fig. S2** The photograph of the UV-vis absorption spectral linear range for Cu<sup>2+</sup>.

### 3. The fluorescent detection limit of Cu<sup>2+</sup> determined by DH



Linear Equation:  $Y = -212.5714 \times X + 775.02857$        $R = 0.9966$

$$S = 2.225 \times 10^8 \quad \delta = \sqrt{\frac{\sum(F - \bar{F})^2}{(N - 1)}} = 49.93 \quad (N = 15) \quad K = 3$$

$$\text{LOD} = K \times \delta / S = 7.048 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$$

**Fig. S3** The photograph of the fluorescent spectrum linear range for Cu<sup>2+</sup>.

#### 4. Effect of pH on the sensing properties of DH

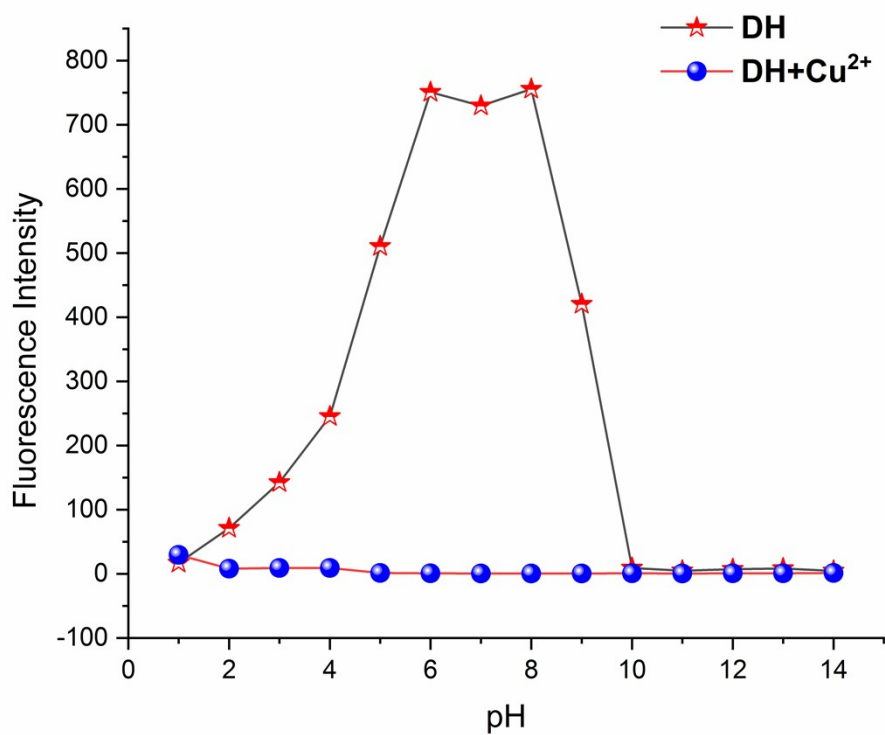
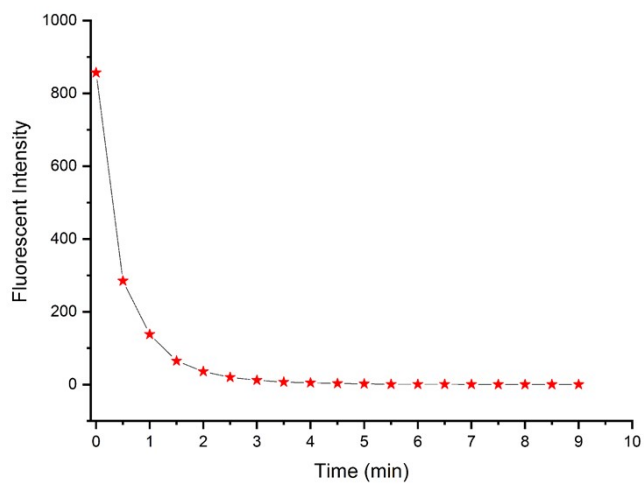


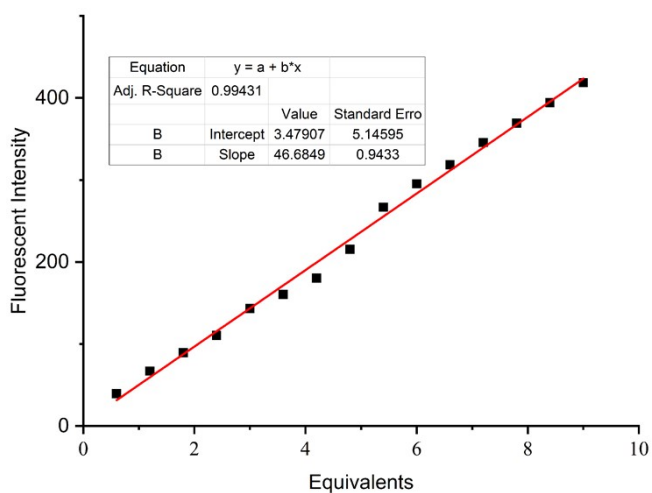
Fig. S4 Effect of pH on the sensing properties of DH in the absence and presence of Cu<sup>2+</sup>

5. Effect of response time on the fluorescence intensity of  $\text{DH-Cu}^{2+}$



**Fig. S5** Effect of response time on the fluorescence intensity of  $\text{DH-Cu}^{2+}$

6. The fluorescent detection limit of  $\text{CN}^-$  determined by  $\text{DH} + \text{Cu}^{2+}$



Linear Equation:  $Y = 46.685 \times X + 3.47907$        $R = 0.99431$

$$S = 4.6685 \times 10^7 \quad \delta = \sqrt{\frac{\sum(F - \bar{F})^2}{(N - 1)}} = 0.0420 \quad (N = 15) \quad K = 3$$

$$\text{LOD} = K \times \delta / S = 8.1067 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$$

**Fig. S6** The photograph of the fluorescent spectrum linear range for  $\text{CN}^-$ .



## 7. Fluorescence spectra of **DH** with increasing concentrations of $\text{CN}^-$

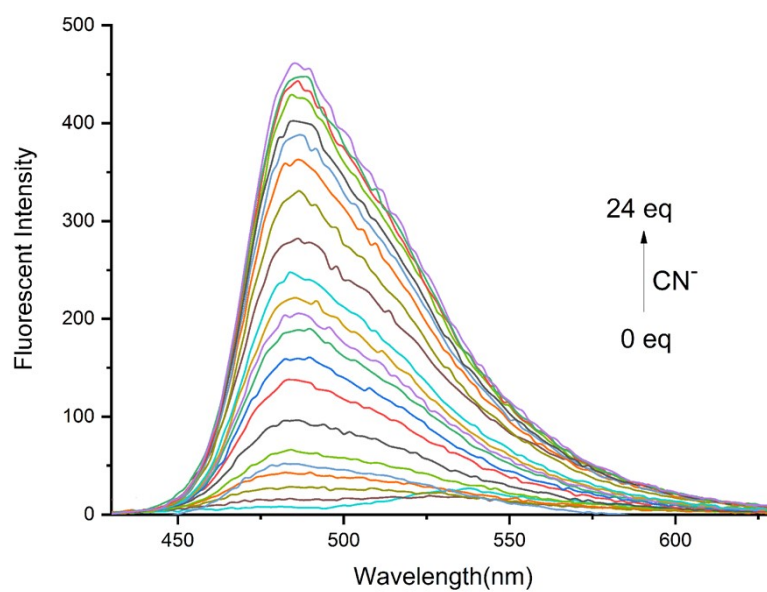
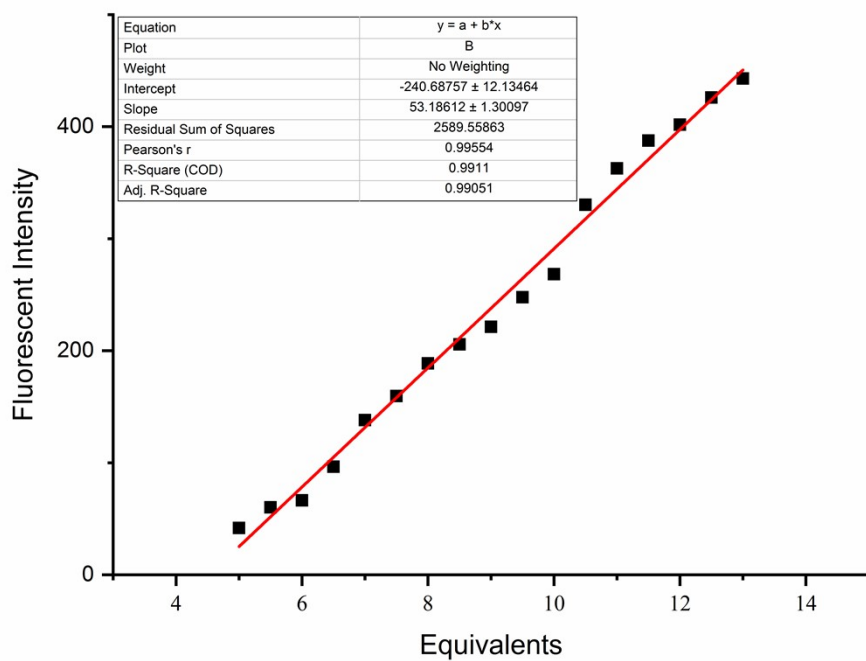


Fig.S7 Fluorescence spectra of **DH** ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$ ) with increasing concentrations of  $\text{CN}^-$ , in DMSO/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (9 : 1, v/v) solutions at room temperature ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=415$  nm).

## 8. The fluorescent detection limit of $\text{CN}^-$ determined by DH



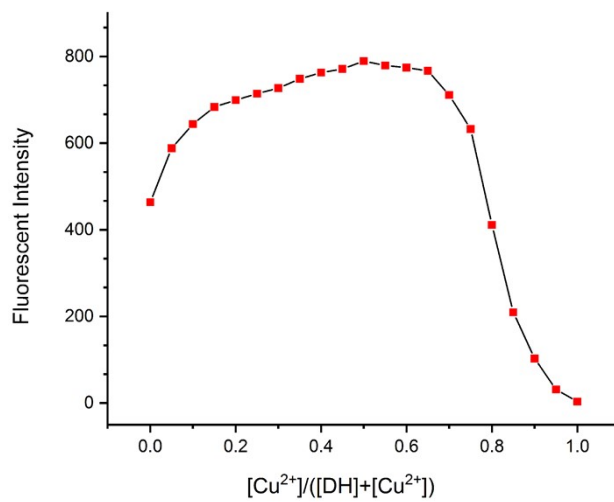
Linear Equation:  $Y = 53.1861 \times X + 240.6876$        $R = 0.99051$

$$S = 5.3186 \times 10^7 \quad \delta = \sqrt{\frac{\sum(F - \bar{F})^2}{(N - 1)}} = 134.8896 \quad (N = 17) \quad K = 3$$

$$\text{LOD} = K \times \delta / S = 7.6085 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$$

**Fig. S8** The photograph of the fluorescent spectrum linear range for  $\text{CN}^-$ .

## 9. The Job's plot examined between $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ and **DH**



**Fig. S9** The Job's plot examined between  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and **DH**, indicating the 1 : 2 stoichiometry for **DH** and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ .

10. FT-IR spectra of sensor DH, DH- Cu<sup>2+</sup> and DH- Cu<sup>2+</sup>-CN<sup>-</sup>

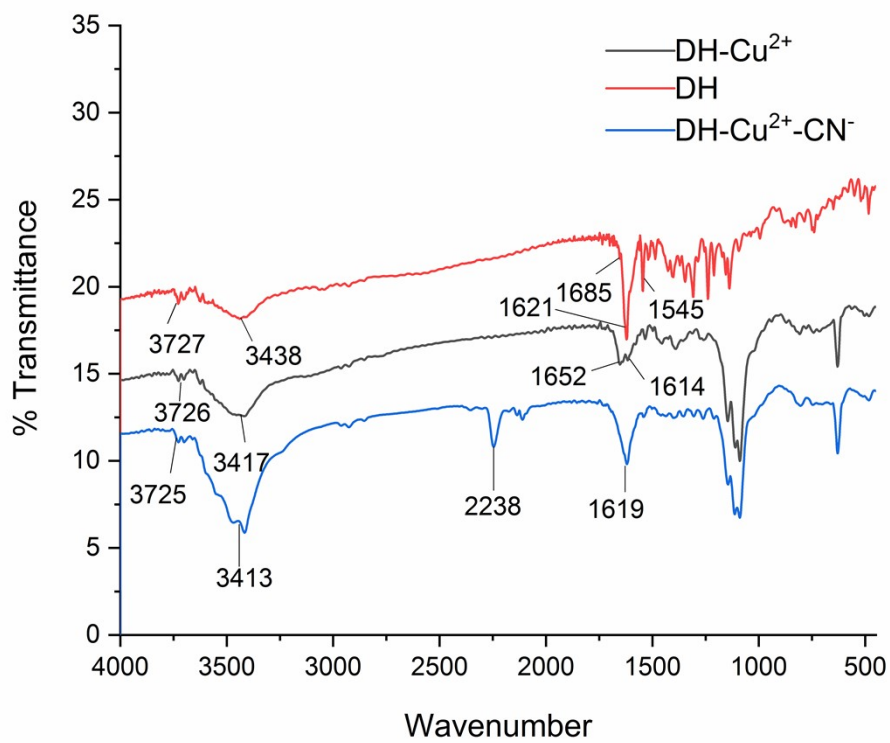
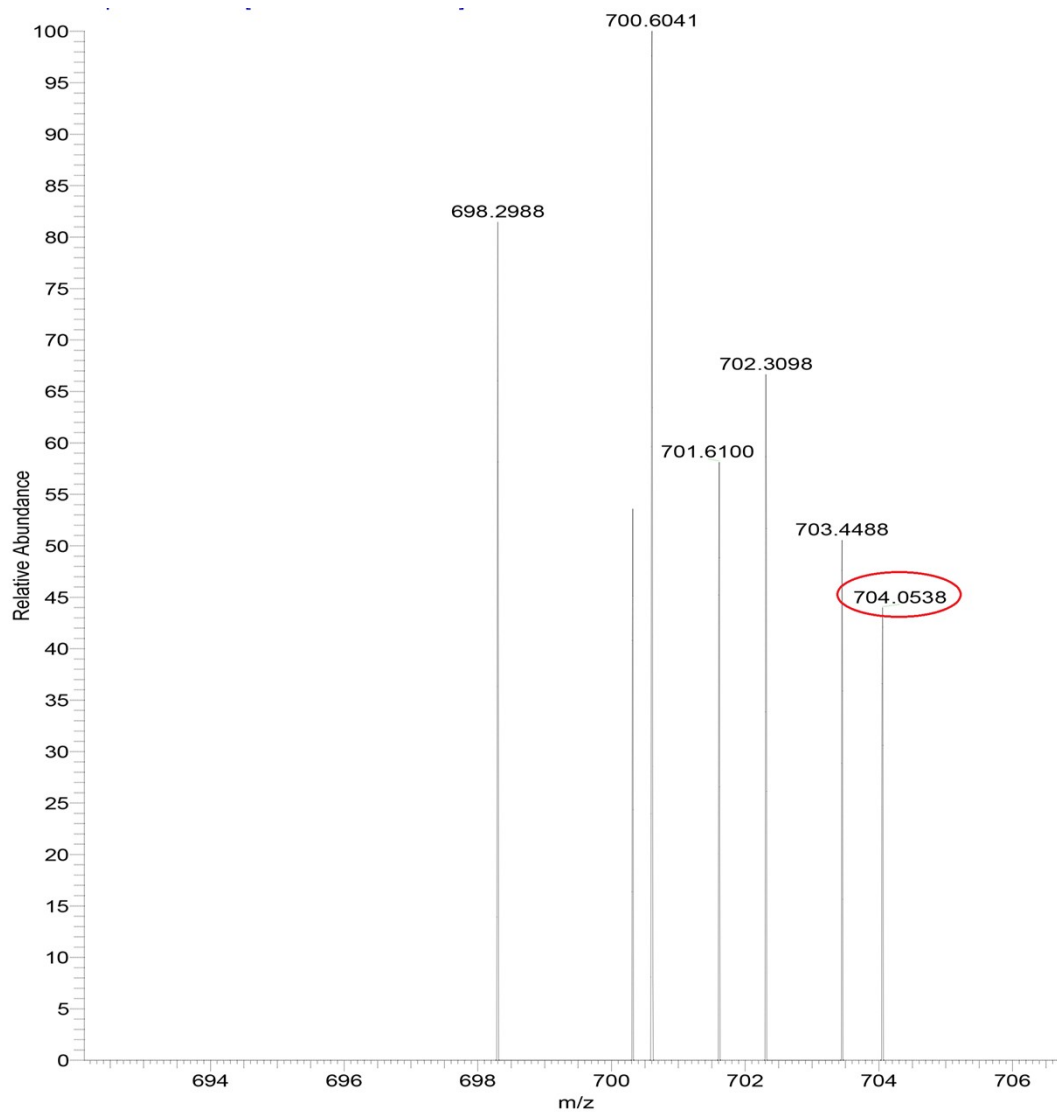


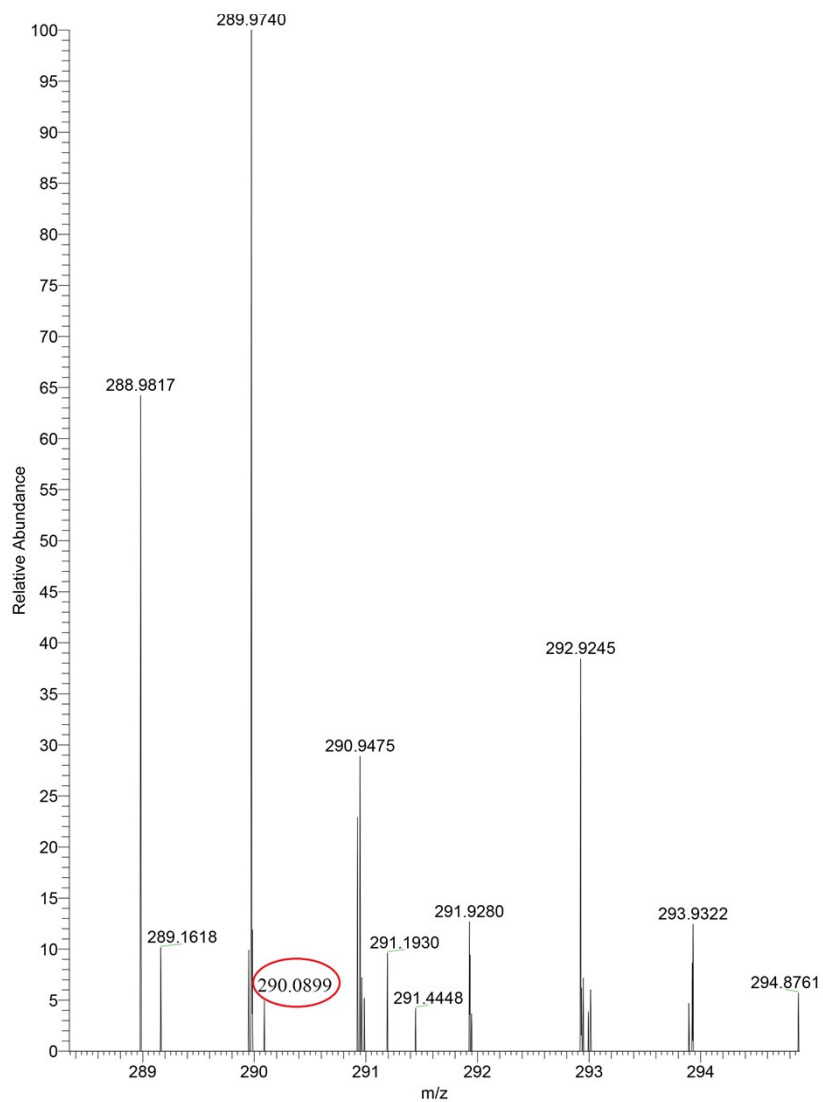
Fig. S10 FT-IR spectra of sensor DH, DH- Cu<sup>2+</sup> and DH- Cu<sup>2+</sup>-CN<sup>-</sup>.

### 11.ESI/MS of sensor **DH** and after adding $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ions



**Fig. S11** ESI/MS of sensor **DH** and after adding  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ .

## 12.ESI/MS of $\text{DH-Cu}^{2+}$ after adding $\text{CN}^-$



**Fig. S12** ESI/MS of  $\text{DH-Cu}^{2+}$  after adding  $\text{CN}^-$ .

### 13. $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of **DH**

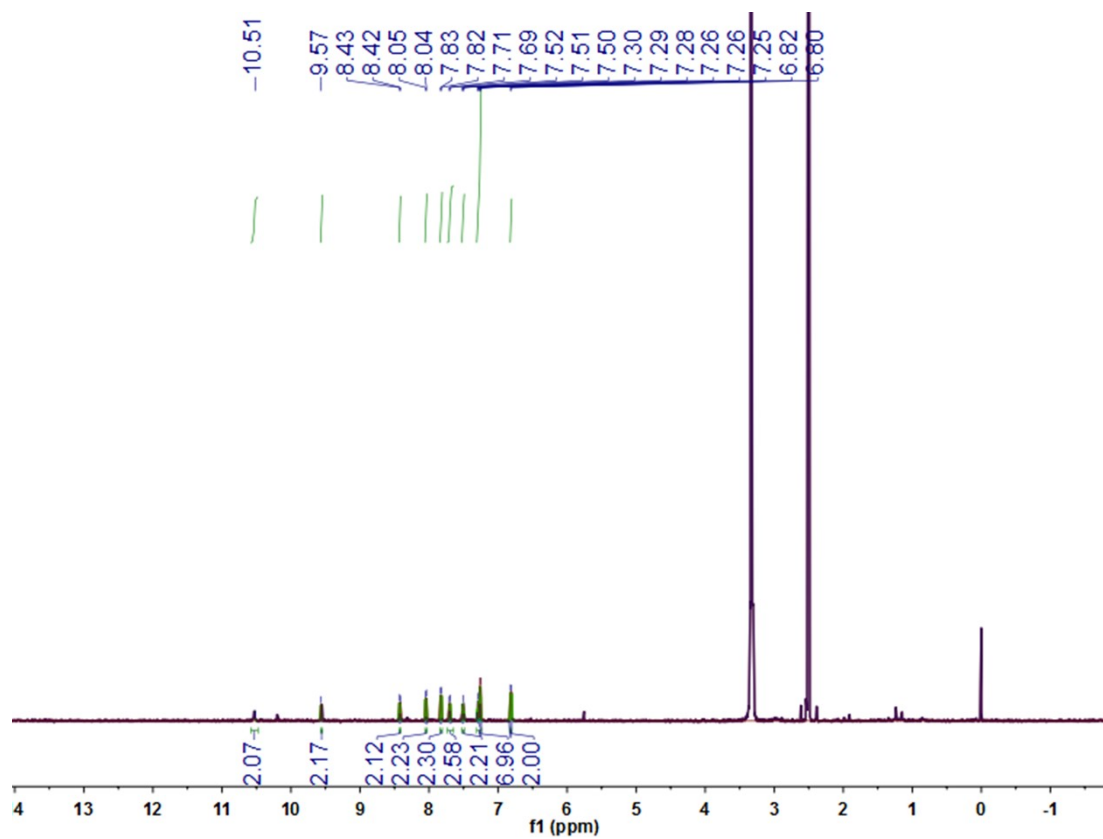


Fig. S13  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of **DH** in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ .

14. The simulated absorption spectrum of the probe molecules **DH** and **DH-Cu<sup>2+</sup>** and the absorption spectrum obtained from experiments

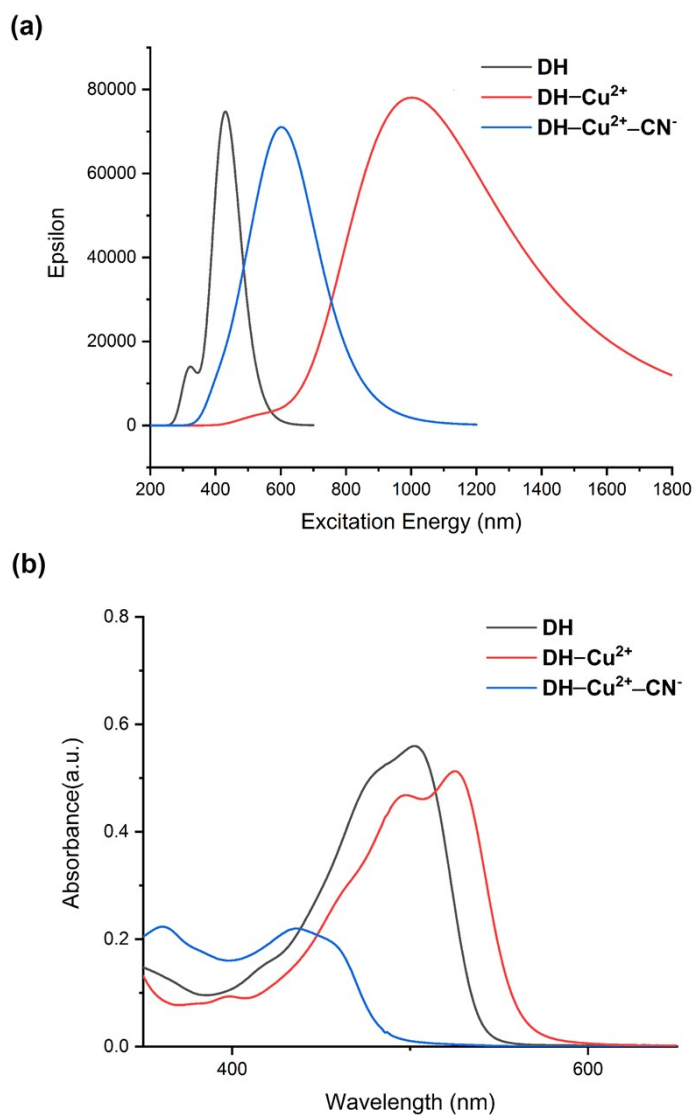


Fig. S14 The simulated absorption spectrum of the probe molecules **DH** and **DH- Cu<sup>2+</sup>** and the absorption spectrum obtained from experiments.



15. The simulated emission spectrum of the probe molecules **DH**, **DH-Cu<sup>2+</sup>**, **DH-Cu<sup>2+</sup>-CN<sup>-</sup>** and the emission spectrum obtained from experiments

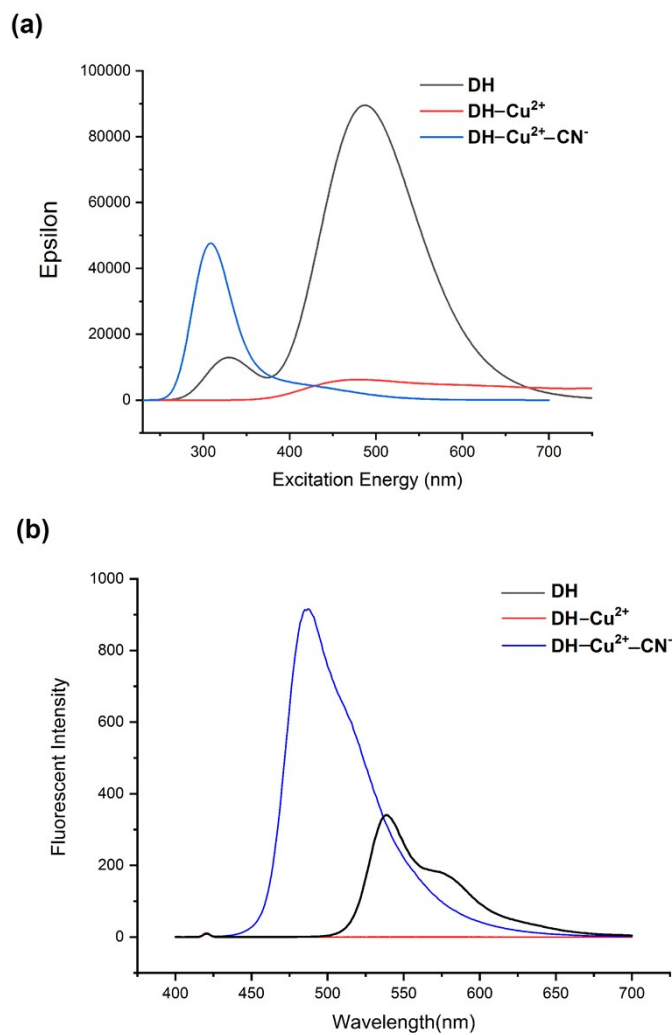


Fig. S15 the simulated emission spectrum of the probe molecules **DH**, **DH-Cu<sup>2+</sup>**, **DH-Cu<sup>2+</sup>-CN<sup>-</sup>** and the emission spectrum obtained from experiments.

16. Reversible switching cycles of fluorescence intensity by alternate addition of

$\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and EDTA

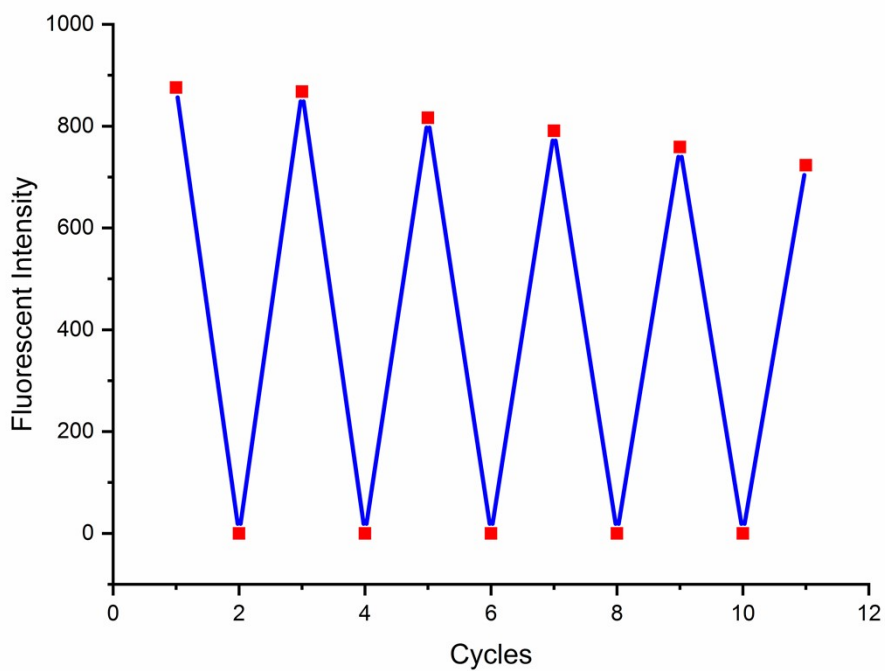
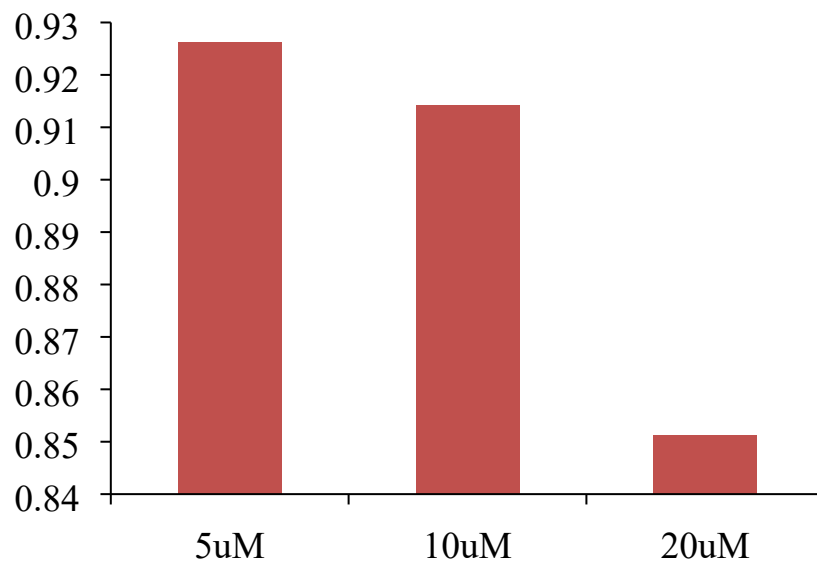


Fig. S16 Reversible switching cycles of fluorescence intensity by alternate addition of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  and EDTA in DMSO/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (9:1, v/v) solution ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 515 \text{ nm}$ ).

### 17. Cytotoxicity test of sensor DH



**Fig. S17** Cytotoxicity test of sensor DH.